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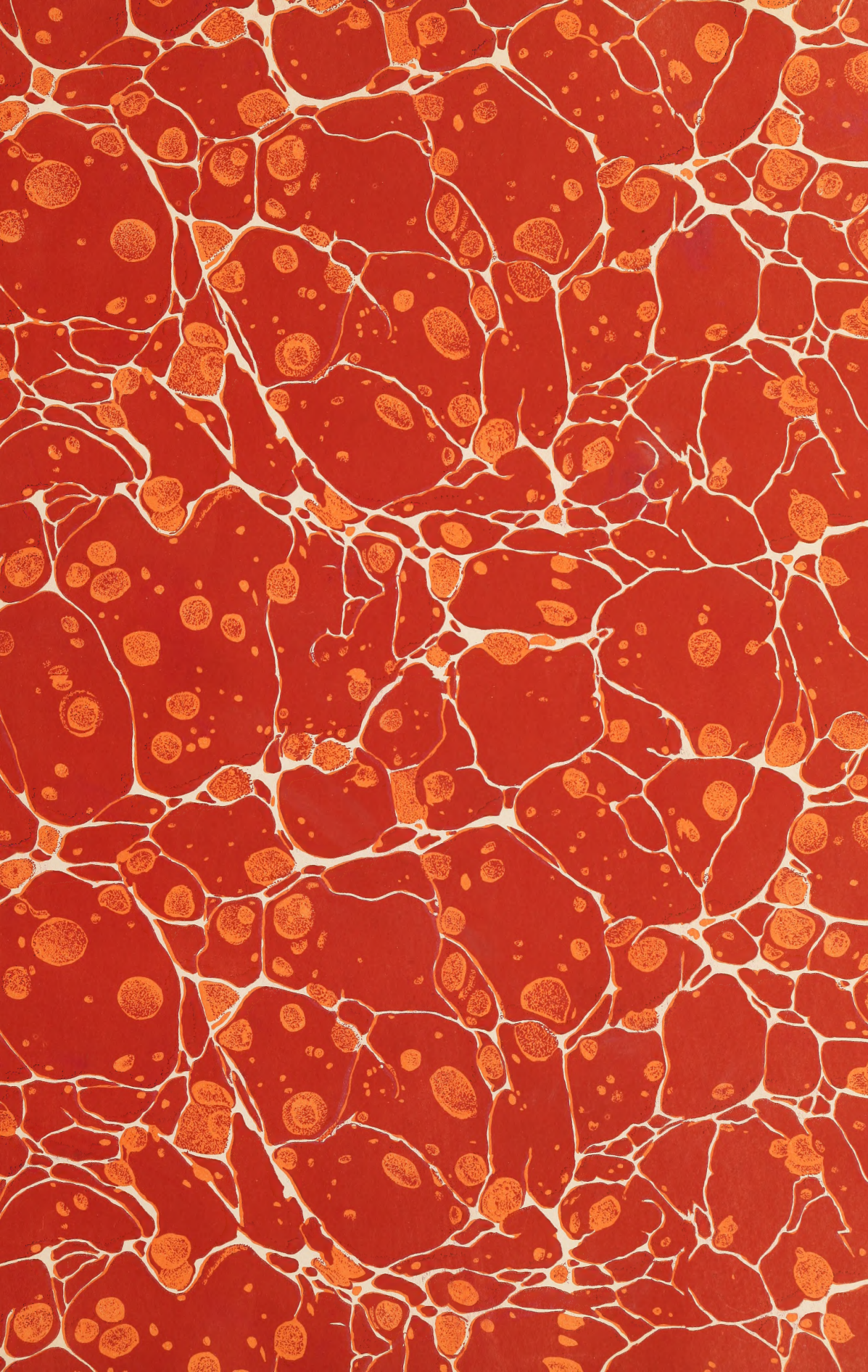
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[DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY, CIRCULAR No. 22.]

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF ENTOMOLOGY.

Bee culture has hitherto received little or no attention in the work of the Entomological Division of the Department of Agriculture. The first work required by the farmers of the country from the Entomological Division was the protection of their crops from insects ravages. Hence the chief energies of the Division since under my direction, have been devoted to the improvement of insecticide appliances and the discovery of improved insecticides, as well as to thorough investigations of the chief insects injurious to vegetation. Yet as an important branch of Economic Entomology, Apiculture deserves attention, and there are some questions which the Department can, perhaps, better consider than private individuals or associations. It gives me pleasure therefore to announce that Commissioner Colman, has appointed Mr. Nelson W. McLain as special Apicultural Agent of the Division. Mr. McLain will make his headquarters at Aurora, Ill., a locality which is well suited for the work, and I bespeak for him the support and assistance of bee-keepers.

Among the subjects which it is proposed to give attention to, in addition to some of more purely scientific interest, are the following:

1st. To secure the introduction and domestication of such races of bees as are reported to possess desirable traits and characteristics; to test the claims of such races of bees as to excellence and to prove by experiments their value to the apiculturists of the United States and their adaptation to our climate and honey-producing flora.

2nd. To make experiments in the crossing and mingling of races already introduced, and such as may hereafter be imported, and by proper application of the laws of breeding endeavor to secure the type or types adapted by habit and constitution to uses of practical bee-keepers in the United States.

3rd. To make experiments in the methods of artificial fertilization and, if possible, demonstrate the best process by which the same may be accomplished.

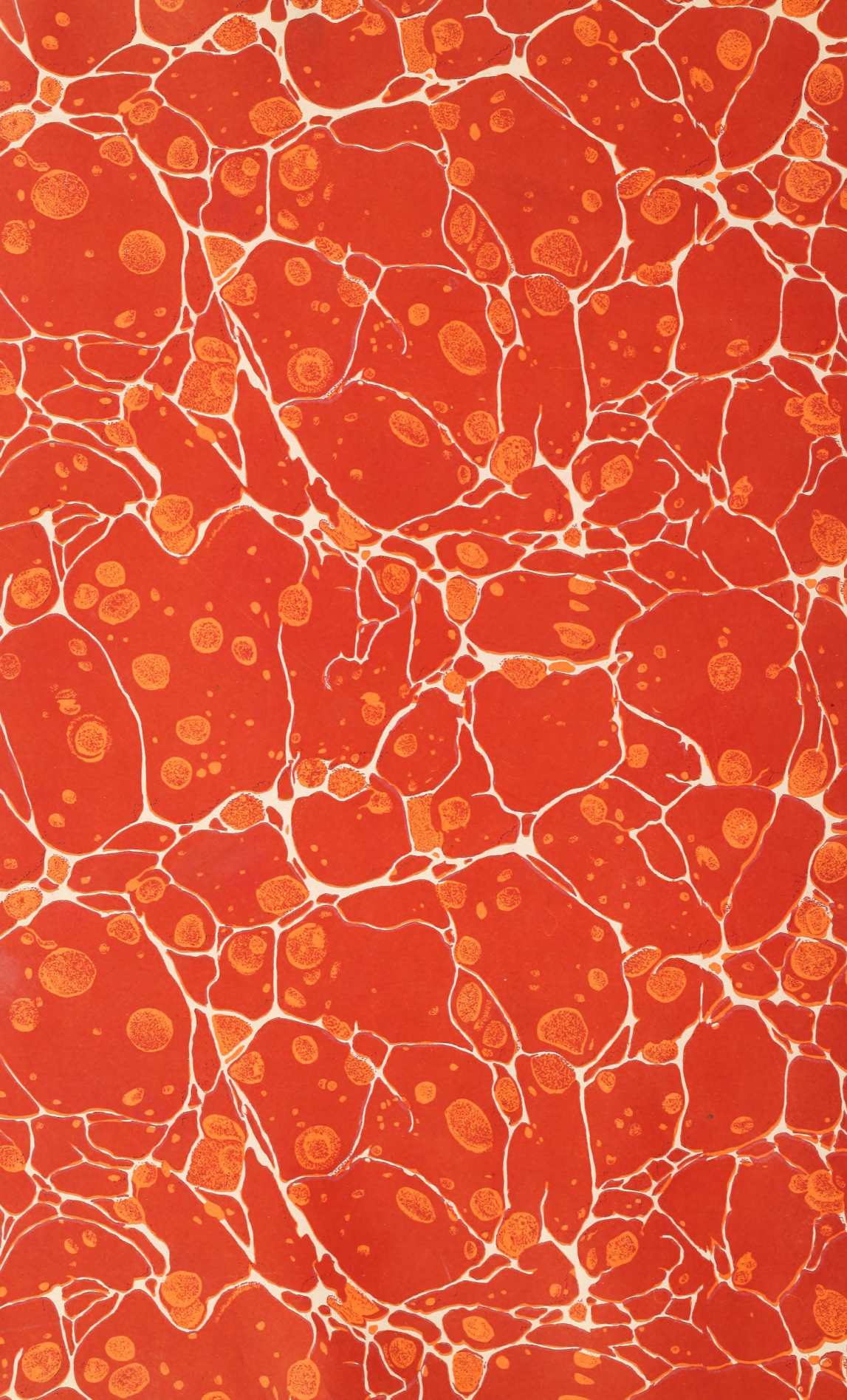
4th. To study the true cause or causes of diseases yet imperfectly understood and the best methods of preventing or curing such diseases.

5th. To obtain incontestible results by intelligent experiments on scientific methods as to the capacity of bees, under exceptional circumstances, to injure fruit, i. e., to set at rest the ever-discussed question of Bees vs. Fruit.

C. V. RILEY,

Entomologist.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 28, 1885.



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